

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, thank you for hearing my testimony on House Bill HB 5490, the "Puppy Lemon Law."

Puppy Mills remind me of the recent news story about the woman who was kept imprisoned in a basement all her life, impregnated over and over by her captor (her father), and forced to bear his children over and over again. This, essentially, was her life. She never saw the sun, never breathed fresh air, never moved around freely, played, loved, or enjoyed any of the beautiful things in life. She was denied the most fundamental rights, and endured unimaginable pain and frustration. And yet, she may have had it better than the poor dogs forced to bear litter after litter of puppies in puppy mills.

It is unfathomable to me that anyone could be so cruel as to treat these dogs' bodies as production machines. Of course, puppy mill proprietors would argue that Bill HB-5493 would make their business less viable, and cause them financial hardship. To them, I would say: "Then find a way to earn an *honest* living -- a living that does not result from stealing the bodies, lives and freedom of innocent animals and causing them to suffer horribly."

Before the Civil War, plantation owners argued that abolishing slavery would make it impossible to operate their plantations profitably. But we abolished slavery anyway. Why? Because the success of the plantations came at an unacceptable price. It is the same thing with the puppy mills. Puppy mill owners are robbing the the animals of their rights and their bodies, and using them for their own profits. Puppy mills are just a horrible form of slavery.

I cannot imagine a fate much worse than the unfortunate dogs who are enslaved by puppy mills. I hope you will help us put an end to this atrocious practice.

Thank you and best regards,  
Joyce Lapin  
(Granby, CT)